

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) An electronic purse comprising:

IC card connecting means for connecting an IC card storing electronic money information;

IC card reading and writing means for reading or writing information from or into the IC card connected to said IC card connecting means;

control means for controlling reading and writing of electronic money in the IC card; and

an external device connecting terminal for sending and receiving electronic money information to and from an external device;

a switching means for making it possible to receive and send electronic money information between said IC card reading and writing means and said external device connecting terminal;

an external device detecting means for detecting a response from the external device connected to said external device connecting terminal; and

wherein when said external device detecting means detects connection of the external device, said control means sets said switching means so that the electronic money information in said IC card can pass between said external device connecting terminal and said IC card reading and writing means, making it possible to send and receive the electronic money information between said external device and said IC card.

2.-16. (Cancel)